

07. 11. 2000

TS 5549 PCT

(52)

NEW SET OF CLAIMS

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1. Process for the catalytic dewaxing of a hydrocarbon oil feed including waxy molecules and more than 500 ppmw of sulphur or sulphur containing compounds by contacting the oil feed under catalytic dewaxing conditions with a catalyst composition comprising a Group VIII metal hydrogenation component, dealuminated aluminosilicate zeolite crystallites, wherein the aluminosilicate zeolite crystallites have a Constraint Index of between 2 and 12, and a low acidity refractory oxide binder material which is essentially free of alumina.

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2. Process according to claim 1, wherein the oil feed comprises more than 750 ppmw of sulphur or sulphur containing compounds.

3. Process according to any one of claims 1-2, wherein the oil feed comprises more than 10 ppmw of nitrogen or nitrogen containing compounds.

4. Process according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein the hydrogenation component is platinum, palladium or nickel.

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5. Process according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein the low acidity binder is silica.

6. Process according to any one of claims 1-5, wherein the aluminosilicate zeolite crystallites is of the MFI type.

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7. Process according to any one of claims 1-6, wherein the dealuminated aluminosilicate zeolite crystallites are obtained by contacting the zeolite crystallites with an aqueous solution of a fluorosilicate salt wherein the fluorosilicate salt is represented by the formula:

(A) $2/b\text{SiF}_6$

wherein 'A' is a metallic or non-metallic cation other than H^+ having the valence 'b', preferably ammonium.

5 8. Process according to any one of claims 7, wherein an
extrudate of the aluminosilicate zeolite crystallites and
the low acidity binder is contacted with the aqueous
solution of the fluorosilicate salt.

10 9. Process according to any one of claims 1-8, wherein
the oil feed is a solvent extracted waxy raffinate.

15 10. Process according to any one of claims 1-8, wherein
the oil feed is a gas oil.

11. Process according to any one of claims 1-8, wherein
the oil feed is a hydrocracker feedstock and wherein the
dewaxed oil is subsequently subjected to a hydrotreating
step before being subjected to a hydrocracker process
step in which step primarily middle distillates are
prepared.

20 12. Method for retrofitting a process for preparing
lubricating base oils wherein an existing solvent
dewaxing step is replaced by a catalytic dewaxing process
according to any one of claims 1 to 9.

$$A^{OD} A_3 >$$